THE NONAGON

SPRING 2003

NEW HAMPSHIRE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of NHNA will be held on Sunday, 20 April 2003 at 2PM during the Third Sunday Show in Nashua. This show is held at the Holiday Inn at Exit 4, and is one of the best little shows in New England. All members are invited to come early to cruise the bourse then attend the meeting. Annual election of officers will take place, plus interesting discussions about the club and NH numismatics. The Ray Wheeler Collection will be available for viewing by members We realize that this is Easter Sunday and that many members will be with their families. We will be happy to se you if you can make it. Please send agenda items to bobfritsch@earthlink.net or POB 3003, Nashua, NH 03061-3003.

SHOWS AND AUCTIONS

Here is a list of upcoming shows and auctions through September.

20 APR - 3rd SUNDAY, NASHUA HOLIDAY INN / NHNA
21 and 24 Apr – Centennial Auctions, Nashua Holiday Inn
18 May - 3rd Sunday, Nashua Holiday Inn
24 May - Small Cents II Auction, Nashua Holiday Inn
25 May - Chelmsford
15 Jun - 3rd Sunday, Nashua Holiday Inn
22 Jun - Chelmsford
20 Jul - 3rd Sunday, Nashua Holiday Inn
26 Jul - Small Cents II Auction, Nashua Holiday Inn
27 Jul - Chelmsford
30 Jul-3 Aug - ANA Baltimore
17 Aug - 3rd Sunday, Nashua Holiday Inn
21-24 Aug – NH Coin & Currency Expo / NENA
20 Sep - Small Cents II Auction, Nashua Holiday Inn
21 Sep - 3rd Sunday, Nashua Holiday Inn
28 Sep - Chelmsford

NEW TOWN MEDALS

The Town of Gilmanton is selling its 275th Anniversary Town Medal, dated 2002, for $15, plus $5 shipping and handling. The web address is www.geocities.com/gilmanton4thofjuly/coins.htm for an order form, or write to Gilmanton 4th of July Association; PO Box 56; Gilmanton, NH 03237.

The City of Nashua has issued a 3-medal set for its 150th Anniversary. Comprising a 1-ounce .9999 fine gold, a 1-ounce .9999 fine silver, and bronze medal, the numbered set sells for $600. Set number 10 will be sold at auction, place and time to be announced. Individual unnumbered silver medals can be bought for $25 and bronze for $15. Write to the City Clerk's Office; 229 Main Street; Nashua, NH 03060. Phone is 603/589-3010.

NHNA OFFICERS

President – Bob Fritsch
Vice President – Daniel Webster IV
Secretary-Treasurer – Sam Allen
Publicity – Frank Van Valen

ADVERTISING IN *THE NONAGON*

Advertising is accepted for *The Nonagon* at the following rates: Full page $20.00, Half Page $12.00, Quarter Page $7.00. The same ad may be included for three issues , Fall, Winter, and Spring, for 2½ times the single rate. Copy for the ads must be camera ready and may be submitted to *The Nonagon*; PO Box 3003; Nashua, NH 03061-3003 by 1 September, 1 January, or 1 April with a check made out to NHNA. A modest setup fee will be charged for non-camera ready ads. NHNA thanks our advertisers and members are encouraged to mention *The Nonagon* when responding to them. Those who support NHNA through advertising deserve your business.

The Editor may be contacted at the above address or via email at bobfritsch@earthlink.net.

RAY WHELER COLLECTION WOODS

NH State Seal/Buffalo/Black
1970 Pine Tree State/Maine/Green (2)
1969 Brookline Bicentennial/Scene/Black
1938 Hampton 1 Wooden Nickel/Blue/Flat
1938 Hampton 2 Wooden Nickels/Green/Flat
1938 Hampton 5 Wooden Nickels/Red/Flat
1952 Cheshire County NS/Pine Tree Shilling/Green/Flat
1963 Gilsum Bicent/Indian/Black
1964 Raymond Bicent/NH Copper/Green
1965 Bath Bicent/Bridge/Red (2)
1965 Concord (Coach) Bicent/Man/Green
1965 Concord (Coach) Bicent/Lady/Blue
1965 Concord (Coach) Bicent/State House/Black
1965 Concord (Coach) Bicent/Old Man/Red
1965 Concord (Coach) Bicent/blank/Blue (Error)
1965 Dunbarton Bicent/Town Seal/Green
1965 Hopkinton Bicent/Indian/Black
1965 Hopkinton Bicent/Buffalo/Black
1965 Orford Bicent/ Indian/Black (2)

Continued on Page 926

Bowers and Merena Galleries'

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2003 Auction Schedule:

June 5, 2003 • Kingswood Coin Auctions
Telephone and Internet Auction

June 26-28, 2003 • Chicago, Illinois
in conjunction with the MidAmerica Coin Expo

July 30-August 2, 2003 • Baltimore, Maryland
The ANA Sale—*Consignment Deadline: May 23, 2003*

August 7, 2003 • Kingswood Coin Auctions
Telephone and Internet Auction—*Consignment Deadline: June 13, 2003*

September 14, 2003 • Los Angeles, California
The Rarities Sale—*Consignment Deadline: July 11, 2003*

September 25, 2003 • Kingswood Coin Auctions
Telephone and Internet Auction—*Consignment Deadline: July 31, 2003*

December 4-6, 2003 • Baltimore, Maryland
in conjunction with the Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: October 6, 2003

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New Hampshire Numismatic Primer – Part 4
New Hampshire Tokens from 1700 to 1900!

By Mike Garofalo, LM#110

Continuing our occasional series on Granite State numismatic items, lets explore the tokens that were issued by various merchants in our state between 1700 and 1900!

The Early Period

Between 1700 and until about 1830, New Hampshire merchants issued only a tiny handful of tokens. In reality, these "tokens" were not actually new tokens at all – they were colonial coins that were counterstamped. In all, only 5 different merchants produced these tokens. This is NOT an easy collection to assemble. In more than 25 years of looking, I have owned only 3 of these pieces! The average retail price of these elusive items is about $150.00 each!

J. and C. Barstow were gunsmiths, who manufactured muskets for the United States Ordnance Department. They were in business from 1808 until about 1820. They were famous for taking circulating US Large Cents and counterstamping them with an eagle or a shield or the word "EXETER" or the initials "J. & C. B." to designate their business name and location. An average Fine specimen is about $100.00.

Beginning in 1796, Portsmouth silversmith Samuel Drowne counterstamped "S. Drowne" or "SD" on a variety of colonial coins such as Nova Constellatio coppers. These interesting tokens will cost about $250 in Fine condition when you find one! Then there is Caleb Warner, a Portsmouth silversmith, who counterstamped worn US Large Cents with "C. WARNER" in a rectangle. He did this from 1824 to 1830 and they are worth approximately $100.00 in Fine!

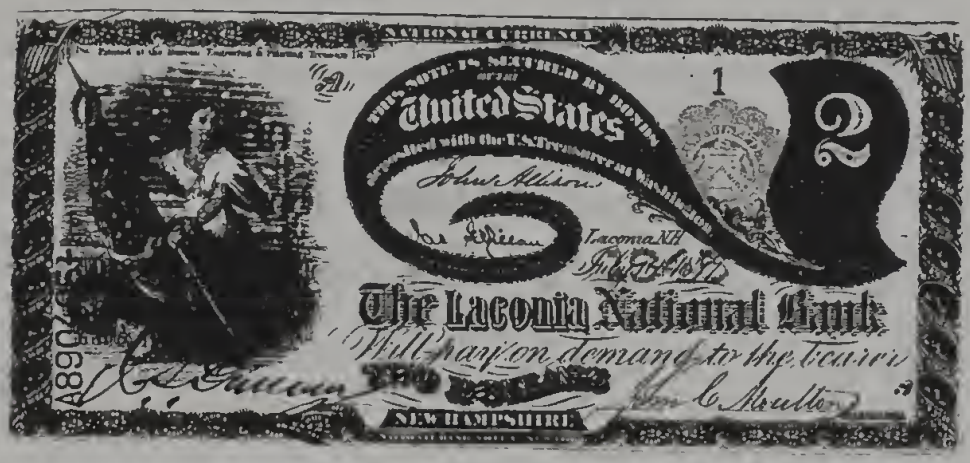
Caleb Warner's Counterstamp on an 1807 Large Cent

The 'Hard Times" Tokens

The Hard Times period was from the mid-1830's until the mid-1840's. During this period coinage was very scarce, due to a banking crisis, and merchants needed coinage. Out of this need, merchants tokens were minted. While the collecting of "HTT's" is very popular and they are avidly collected by political theme, or state, our beloved Granite State offers little to the collector. Again, there were only 5 different merchants who issued tokens but, unlike the early issues, there are sufficient quantities of all 5 to make acquiring a collection attainable.

Haselton & Palmer of Dover, were grocers and dealers in dry goods. They produced 28.5 mm copper tokens stating their name and business. Another merchant who followed this same example was A.C. Smith of Dover. He dealt in similar items and produced a 29.1 mm copper token. Both tokens were unremarkable in design, only bearing lines of text. In 1837 Nathaniel March of Portsmouth also produced a copper token of 29.1 mm. His token unimaginatively bore only lines of text for his bookselling and stationery business. Still another New Hampshire merchant tried his hand at these tokens. William Simes produced yet another 29.1 mm copper token for his Tea, Wine and Grocery business. Last but certainly not least, E. F. Sise and Company produced a final 29.1mm copper token. Sise was in the business of importing crockery, glassware and coal. His token is generally available in adequate quantities and is valued at the low end of the $20 to $40 range for choice VF/XF specimens.

I Like New Hampshire Currency!



I enjoy collecting colonial, state chartered, and National Bank currency from New Hampshire, anything and everything, including different denominations, signature combinations, plate letters, series variations, and more. I also like old stock certificates, correspondence, etc., relating to the above banks.

Do you have some New Hampshire currency for sale? I would be delighted to learn about it! I am not at all looking for bargains but will pay the full current market price for anything that I can use. I will give an instant decision on any item you offer me and will pay instantly for anything I can use.

Thank you for contacting me! I really appreciate it.

Dave Bowers

Box 1224
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

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Telephone: 603-569-5095
Email: barndoor@bowersandmerena.com

New Hampshire Currency Research Continues

By Dave Bowers

Bob Fritsch invited me to submit a few words to the *Nonagon* regarding the research project for obsolete and National Bank currency being done by David M. Sundman and me. We continue to gather information from many sources, including the National Archives, the New Hampshire State Library, the New Hampshire State Historical Society, and elsewhere.

Eventually, this will come together into a meaningful manuscript which, no doubt, will tell readers all they ever wanted to know, and probably a lot that they don't want to know or never dreamed of asking, about such items as a particular $5 Original Series bill issued in Portsmouth in 1865; a $10 1929 Type I distributed by the Wilton National Bank in the 1930s; or the ever-popular "Santa Claus" $2 bills issued by the star-crossed White Mountain Bank in Lancaster in the 1850s and early 1860s.

Part of the enjoyment of the project has been corresponding and meeting with people, visiting archives, reviewing collections, and in many instances tracking down the original buildings or sites. There were over a hundred buildings used for banks in New Hampshire, and thus far fewer than 20% have been visited in person, providing many opportunities for future field trips!

The accompanying enclosed views are some pictures that may be of interest and illustrate buildings and banknotes.

The Pine River Bank of Ossipee, which flourished in the late 1850s and early 1860s, was conducted in the general store of Nathaniel Grant. Today the Grant store serves as the headquarters for the Ossipee Historical Society, and with curator Arnetta Paul I had the opportunity to poke through various "stuff" a few months ago. The original Pine River Bank safe is still there. Unfortunately, not a single example of the currency remains, although I have been fortunate in acquiring some modern proof impressions from the original plates.

The Wilton National Bank, on the main street of the town of the same name, is one of relatively few institutions that looks today as it must have been when it first opened for business back in 1928, if you ignore the "sovereign bank" signs here and there, reflecting new ownership. Indeed, the entire landscape of New Hampshire national banks has changed dramatically, nearly have been merged, consolidated, eliminated, or whatever, and given modern names. Today in New Hampshire just the Pemigewassett National Bank and the Lancaster National Bank remain from the currency-issuing era and still have their original names. How sad.

By the way, the Pemigewassett Bank has been in several different places during its existence, including in the building shown here, both in a modern view and from a circa 1915 postcard. Postcards in particular are an interesting way to see how a structure looked back then.

If this sort of information is of general interest, I'll be happy to send Bob Fritsch some more for a future issue!

PINE RIVER BANK OF OSSIPEE

Today (Ossipee Historical Society)

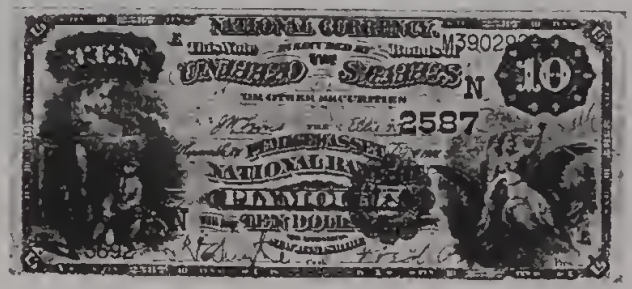
$100 bill, modern proof impression.
No example of any original bill of any denomination has been located by the writer.

PEMIGEWASSET NATIONAL BANK

ca. 1906

ca. 1920

Today



1882 $10 Date Back bill

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NH TOWN MEDALS QUIZ

By Bob Fritsch

New Hampshire Town Medals offer a fascinating array of topics and are a wonderful way to build a nice numismatic collection at reasonable cost. Here are the answers to last month's quiz:

1. What town proclaims on its medal that it is the best town by a dam site? **Belmont**
2. What was the error on the 1972 Rochester Town Medal? **Two dates were wrong (Settled 1722 vice 1728 and Organized 1727 vice 1737), forcing a second issue with the correct dates.**
3. Which medal depicts the steamer *Kusumpe*? **Ashland**
4. Which medal depicts glassblowers at work? **Stoddard**
5. What town medal features a nifty railroad bridge, complete with steam train? **Greenville**
6. Which town medal would fit well in the Wells Fargo Museum? **Concord**
7. Which town is halfway between the North Pole and the Equator, according to its medal? **Stewartstown**
8. Which town medal features a moose? **Errol**
9. Which three towns used a common obverse for their 1969 medals? **Derry, Londonderry, and Windham all used the Nutfield obverse, as each were part of the Nutfield Plantation in colonial times.**
10. What was unusual about the 1938 Hampton Beach medal featuring Goody Cole? **It was shaped like an arrowhead.**
11. What town is the only one on earth? **Henniker**
12. Which town medal features the town's very elaborate weather vane? **Bedford**
13. Which town had a red enameled strawberry on their 350th anniversary medal? **Portsmouth (silver only).**
14. Which uniface town medal features a wolf? **Lancaster**
15. Whitefield depicts an old engine of the P&O Railroad on its medal. What is (was) the P&O? **Portland & Ogdensburg (NY)**
16. Which town medal features a hot air balloon? **Jefferson**
17. Which town medal depicts a log drive on the Androscoggin River? **Milan**
18. *The Lady of the Lake* resides on what town medal? **Wolfeboro**
19. What town that made masts for sailing ships depicted one on their medal? **Lee**
20. Which town medal depicts the *Blueberry Express*? **Pittsfield**

We hope you liked this quiz. Watch here for more NH numismatic trivia.

RAY WHELER COLLECTION WOODS (Cont'd)

1966 Albany Bicent/Buffalo/Red (2)
1966 Albany Bicent/Indian/Green (2)
1966 Wentworth Bicent/Cabin/Green
1966 Wentworth Bicent/Cabin/Red
1966 Stratham 250th/Logo/Green
1966 Stratham 250th/Logo/Red
1966 Stratham 250th/Logo/Blue
1966 Stratham 250th/Logo/Brown
1966 Stratham 250th/Logo/Purple
1966 Lee Bicent/Ship/Red
1966 Lee Bicent/Ship/Blue
1966 Lee Bicent/Ship/Brown
1966 Lee Bicent/Ship/Green
1966 Lee Bicent/Ship/Purple
1966 Deerfield Bicent/Lady/Purple
1966 Deerfield Bicent/Man/Brown
1966 Deerfield Bicent/Wagons/Red
1966 Deerfield Bicent/Liberty/Green
1966 Deerfield Bicent/Fair/Blue
1967 Acworth Bicent/Church/Purple
1967 Acworth Bicent/Church/Green
1967 Acworth Bicent/Church/Red
1967 Acworth Bicent/Church/Blue
1967 Acworth Bicent/Church/Brown
1968 Meredith Bicent/Indian/Green (2)
1968 Salisbury Bicent/Man/Black
1968 Madbury Bicent/Chief Madbury/Blue
1968 Madbury Bicent/Chief Madbury/Red
1969 Belmont Bicent/Best Town/Blue
1969 Belmont Bicent/Best Town/Green
1969 Belmont Bicent/Best Town/Black
1969 Belmont Bicent/Best Town/Red
1969 Belmont Bicent/Best Town/Purple
1969 Kingston 275th/Logo/Purple
1969 Kingston 275th/Logo/Green
1969 Kingston 275th/Logo/Brown
1969 Kingston 275th/Logo/Blue
1969 Kingston 275th/Logo/Red

More to come!